



End-of-Life

Last reviewed January 2020

“End-of-Life Care? I’m not Going to Worry About That Yet.” Health Literacy gaps and End-of-Life Planning Among Elderly Dialysis Patients

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5946914/>

This study examined how health literacy may affect engagement, comprehension and satisfaction with end-of-life conversations among elderly dialysis patients. (OPEN ACCESS)

Facilitating Effective End-of-Life Communication – Helping People Decide

<http://canadiangeriatrics.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/Facilitating-Effective-End-of-Life-Communication-%E2%80%93-Helping-People-Decide.pdf>

This article provides an overview of differing definitions and legislation used related to advance care planning and goals of care across Canada. The authors aim to provide ideas on facilitating discussions and highlight opportunities to start these conversations with patients and substitute decision makers. (OPEN ACCESS)

Advance Care Planning: Social Isolation Matters

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/jgs.16287>

The objective of this cross-sectional analysis was to compare advance care planning engagement in older adults who were severely socially isolated, socially isolated and not socially isolated. (OPEN ACCESS)

Hospice Decision Making: Diagnosis Makes a Difference

<https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnr160>

This study investigated the process of decision making about hospice enrollment and identified factors that influenced the timing of that decision. (OPEN ACCESS)

Till Death Do Us Part: The Lived Experience of an Elderly Couple Who Chose to End Their Lives by Spousal Self-Euthanasia

<https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnv060>

This article provides a qualitative account of spousal self-euthanasia in older people. (OPEN ACCESS)

Older People’s Discourses About Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide: A Foucauldian Exploration

<https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnv102>

The study discussed aimed to contribute an alternative understanding of the position of older people in the euthanasia and assisted suicide (EU/AS) debate. (OPEN ACCESS)

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A Systematic Review of Older Adults' Request for or Attitude Toward Euthanasia or Assisted-Suicide <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13607863.2019.1697201?journalCode=camh20>

The authors conducted a systematic review of the predictors (demographic, physical health, psychological, social, quality of life, religious, or existential) associated with attitudes toward, wishes and requests for, as well as death by EUT/PAS among older adults. (PAID ACCESS)

'Conditional Candour' and 'Knowing me': An Interpretative Description Study on Patient Preferences for Physician Behaviours During End-of-Life Communication

<https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/4/10/e005653.full>

The objective of this study was to understand patients' preferences for physician behaviours during end-of-life communication. (OPEN ACCESS)

Communicating Health Information at the End of Life: Caregivers' Perspectives

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6678674/>

The aim of this qualitative study was to understand caregivers' experiences regarding health information and communication during the illness and death of family members. (OPEN ACCESS)

"I Don't Want to Die Like That..." The Impact of Significant Others Death Quality on Advance Care Planning <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3495910/>

The author examined whether 5 aspects of a significant other's death quality (pain, decision-making capacity, location, problems with end-of-life care, and preparation) affect whether one does advance care planning (ACP). She also identifies specific aspects of others' deaths that respondents say triggered their own planning. (OPEN ACCESS)

Preparedness for Death: How Caregivers of Elders with Dementia Define and Perceive its Value <https://academic.oup.com/gerontologist/article/57/6/1093/2631944>

The goal of this study was to ascertain how bereaved caregivers of a family member who died from a dementia-related diagnosis define preparedness and perceive its value. (OPEN ACCESS)

When Death with Dementia is "A Memory Seared in my Brain": Caregivers' Recommendations to Health Care Professionals

<https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0733464819884267>

The purpose of this study was to determine family caregivers' recommendations on how to help them prepare for the death of an elder with dementia. (OPEN ACCESS)

A Strategy for Identifying and Disseminating Best Practice Innovations in the Care of Patients with Multiple Chronic Conditions or End-of-Life Care Needs

https://www.managedcaremag.com/system/files/storypdfs/mc_1607_or_bestpracticeinnovation.pdf

This paper describes a quality-improvement project aimed at developing a process to identify best practices implemented in community-based clinical settings, develop a platform to share and disseminate best practices and facilitate the adoption of successful practices across other similar settings. (OPEN ACCESS)

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Implementation Science: Implications for Intervention Research in Hospice and Palliative Care <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnt022>

This article provides a general introduction to implementation science – the discipline that studies the implementation process of research evidence in the context of hospice and palliative care. (OPEN ACCESS)

Which Critical Communication Skills are Essential for Interdisciplinary End-of-Life Discussions?

<https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/sites/journalofethics.ama-assn.org/files/2018-08/medu2-1808.pdf>

In this article, the authors reviewed what was known about the skills and strategies necessary for meaningful and effective end of life conversations and the role of interdisciplinary approaches to these conversations. (OPEN ACCESS)

LGBT End-of-Life Conversations <http://www.sfu.ca/lgbteol/Resources.html>

This Simon Fraser University Gerontology Research Centre's website fosters effective communication, creates community and facilitates care for LGBT persons at the end-of-life. The aim is to raise awareness of the unique challenges that this population faces as they age and approach end-of-life. A variety of resources are shared. (OPEN ACCESS)

Cultural Relevance in End-of-Life Care

<https://ethnomed.org/clinical/end-of-life/cultural-relevance-in-end-of-life-care>

The focus of this article will be on cross-cultural issues at the end of life for ethnically and culturally diverse groups. (OPEN ACCESS)

Turning the Lens Inward: Cultural Competence and Providers' Values in Health Care Decision Making <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gns008>

The author discusses the need understand how health care providers own beliefs influence the care they deliver and their assessment of older adults' decision making capacity. (OPEN ACCESS)

Will my Soul go to Heaven if They Take my Brain? Beliefs and Worries About Brain Donation Among Four Ethnic Groups <https://doi.org/10.1093/geront/gnv683>

The objective of this study was to explore the beliefs and attitudes toward brain donation among African American, Chinese, Caucasian, and Latino research subjects and their family members via focus groups at Alzheimer's Disease Centres. (OPEN ACCESS)

Caring for the Terminally Ill: Honouring the Choices of People

<http://eolfn.lakeheadu.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/01/Honouring-the-Choices.pdf>

This booklet was designed to support Aboriginal people and their caregivers in rural and remote communities living with life threatening illness. (OPEN ACCESS)

“Just let me go”: End-of-Life Planning Among Ojibwe Elders

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5946829/>

The purpose of this study was to explore the apparent tension between Western approaches to end-of-life care, including its emphasis on Advance Care Planning and the expectations and wishes of one community of Indigenous elders to inform more culturally appropriate approaches to planning for end-of-life care. (OPEN ACCESS)

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A Holistic Approach to Delirium at the End of Life

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/76bf/f496e19e8b67eb6821bd1a73f69eff9e047a.pdf>

The author proposes a framework to guide the management of delirium which includes consideration of the patient's burden of disease, goals of care, family concerns, social, cultural and religious sensitivities. (OPEN ACCESS)

Delirium and Agitation at the End of Life <https://www.bmj.com/content/353/bmj.i3085>

This clinical update provides information regarding the successful management of delirium at the end of life. (OPEN ACCESS)

Comfort Care at the End of Life for Persons with Alzheimer's Disease or Other Degenerative Diseases of the Brain

<http://hpccconnection.ca/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/ComfortCareEOLGuide.pdf>

This guide is intended for caregivers of a person whose health has been severely affected by Alzheimer's disease or by another type of degenerative disease of the brain, such as Parkinson's disease, the effects of multiple strokes, or even certain forms of multiple sclerosis. (OPEN ACCESS)

End-of-Life Care for Older People in the Emergency Department: A Scoping Review <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1742-6723.13414>

This scoping review sought to provide a comprehensive understanding of available research regarding end-of-life (EOL) care for older people in the emergency department. (OPEN ACCESS)

Integrating Advance Care Planning as Part of Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment for Hospitalised Frail Elderly Patients: Findings of a Cross-Sectional Study

<http://www.smj.org.sg/sites/default/files/OA-2018-041-epub.pdf>

This paper discusses a cross-sectional study on patients and family caregivers admitted to the geriatric medicine department of a tertiary hospital. (OPEN ACCESS)

Antimicrobial Stewardship Near the End of Life in Aged Care Homes

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0196655319309022?via%3Dihub>

The objective of this study was to understand how aged care home health professionals perceive antimicrobial use near the end of life and how they perceive potential antimicrobial stewardship activities near the end of life in aged care homes. (PAID ACCESS)

Framework for Continuous Palliative Sedation Therapy (CPST) in Canada

https://www.chpca.net/media/343120/final_cpst_framework.pdf

This framework was developed to provide a basis for the development of safe, effective and ethical use of CPST for patients in palliative care and at the end of life. (OPEN ACCESS)

Reflections on Palliative Sedation <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F1178224218823511>

This author provides an overview on a variety of concerns and considerations in regards to palliative sedation. (OPEN ACCESS)

The Role of End-of-Life Palliative Sedation: Medical and Ethical Aspects - Review

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bjane.2018.03.002>

The objective of this review was to seek a probable consensus among the authors regarding the use of palliative sedation. (OPEN ACCESS)